

Attorney Docket No. 1-74168

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 through 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle comprising:

- a. providing a substrate defining an airbag door; and
- b. simultaneously over-molding an airbag chute for mounting the airbag assembly, and a hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag.

22. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the hinge and the airbag chute are formed from the same material.

23. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein prior to the step of simultaneously over-molding the hinge and the airbag chute of the airbag assembly on the substrate, the substrate is formed in a mold, and subsequently an outer layer is formed in the mold, wherein the substrate is formed from a first material, the outer layer is formed from a second material different from the first material, and wherein the outer layer is bonded to a passenger-compartment-facing surface of the substrate.

24. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the hinge and the airbag chute of the airbag assembly are formed from a third material.

25. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the third material is different from the first material and the second material.

26. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein prior to the step of simultaneously over-molding the hinge and the airbag chute of the airbag assembly on the substrate, an outer layer is formed in a mold, and subsequently the substrate is formed in the mold, wherein the substrate is formed from a first material, the outer layer is formed

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from a second material different from the first material, and wherein the outer layer is bonded to a passenger-compartment-facing surface of the substrate.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the hinge and the airbag chute of the airbag assembly are formed from a third material.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the third material is different from the first material and the second material.

29. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the airbag assembly includes an airbag module housing having a closed end and an open end, a plurality of outwardly extending mounting hooks being formed at the open end, wherein the airbag chute includes a plurality of hook-receiving apertures for receiving the hooks, wherein the hinge includes a plurality of elongated hook-receiving apertures for receiving the hooks, the hook-receiving apertures of the hinge extending inboard of the hooks such that the hinge is movable between a retracted position and an extended position relative to the chute, and wherein the hook-receiving apertures allow movement of the airbag chute relative to, and unrestrained by the hooks when the hinge moves between the retracted position and the extended position.

30. (New) A method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle comprising:

- a. providing a mold assembly having a mold cavity;
- b. placing a substrate defining an airbag door into the mold cavity to define first and second cavities;
- c. injecting a first material into the first cavity to form an airbag chute for mounting the airbag assembly; and
- d. injecting a second material into the second cavity to form a hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag.

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31. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein the first material and the second material are injected simultaneously.

32. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein the first and second materials are the same material.

33. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein the step of injecting the second material into the second cavity includes inserting scrim material within the second cavity.

34. (New) A method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle comprising:

- a. providing a substrate defining an airbag door, the substrate having a passenger-compartment-facing first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface; and
- b. simultaneously over-molding an outer layer on the first surface of the substrate, and a hinge on the second surface of the substrate, the hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag.

35. (New) The method of Claim 34 wherein the hinge and the outer layer are formed from the same material.

36. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein prior to the step of simultaneously over-molding the hinge and the outer layer of the airbag assembly on the substrate, the substrate is formed in a mold, and subsequently the hinge and the outer layer are formed in the mold, wherein the substrate is formed from a first material, and the hinge and the outer layer are formed from a second material different from the first material.

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37. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein the step of over-molding the hinge includes over-molding scrim material within the hinge.

38. (New) The method of Claim 35, wherein the substrate includes an aperture, such that the material flows through the aperture from one of the hinge and the outer layer to the other of the hinge and the outer layer during over-molding, thereby defining the airbag assembly and trim component.

39. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein the airbag assembly includes an airbag module housing having a closed end and an open end, a plurality of outwardly extending mounting hooks being formed at the open end, wherein the airbag chute includes a plurality of hook-receiving apertures for receiving the hooks, wherein the hinge includes a plurality of elongated hook-receiving apertures for receiving the hooks, the hook-receiving apertures of the hinge extending inboard of the hooks such that the hinge is movable between a retracted position and an extended position relative to the chute, and wherein the hook-receiving apertures allow movement of the airbag chute relative to, and unrestrained by the hooks when the hinge moves between the retracted position and the extended position.

40. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein step (b) further includes simultaneously over-molding an airbag chute for mounting the airbag assembly with the outer layer and the hinge, the airbag chute being formed on the second surface of the substrate with the hinge.

41. (New) The method of Claim 40, wherein the hinge and the airbag chute are formed from the same material.

42. (New) The method of Claim 41, wherein the substrate is formed from a first material, the outer layer is formed from a second material, and the hinge and the airbag chute are formed from a third material.

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43. (New) The method of Claim 42, wherein the third material is different from the first material and the second material.

44. (New) The method of Claim 40, wherein the hinge and the outer layer are formed from the same material.

45. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein step (b) further includes over-molding scrim material within the hinge.

46. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the substrate includes an aperture, such that the material flows through the aperture from one of the hinge and the outer layer to the other of the hinge and the outer layer during over-molding, thereby defining the airbag assembly and trim component.

47. (New) The method of Claim 40, wherein the airbag assembly includes an airbag module housing having a closed end and an open end, a plurality of outwardly extending mounting hooks being formed at the open end, wherein the airbag chute includes a plurality of hook-receiving apertures for receiving the hooks, wherein the hinge includes a plurality of elongated hook-receiving apertures for receiving the hooks, the hook-receiving apertures of the hinge extending inboard of the hooks such that the hinge is movable between a retracted position and an extended position relative to the chute, and wherein the hook-receiving apertures allow movement of the airbag chute relative to, and unrestrained by the hooks when the hinge moves between the retracted position and the extended position.

48. (New) A method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle comprising:

- a. providing a mold assembly having a mold cavity;

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b. placing a substrate defining an airbag door into the mold cavity to define first and second cavities, the substrate having a passenger-compartment-facing first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface;

c. injecting a first material into the first cavity to form an outer layer on the first surface; and

d. injecting a second material into the second cavity to form a hinge on the second surface of the substrate, the hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag.

49. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the first material and the second material are injected simultaneously.

50. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the first and second materials are the same material.

51. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the step of injecting the second material into the second cavity includes inserting scrim material within the second cavity.